

SHOLES & MILLER, LLP
SARAH E. SHOLES (SS 6445)
327 Mill Street
P.O. Box 4609
Poughkeepsie, New York 12602

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CELIA KATZ, Individually, and as Administratrix
of the Estate of MICHAEL KATZ

Plaintiff,

v.

MICHAEL D. LANIGAN, MD,
MITCHELL S. STRAND, MD,
ELLIOTT MAYEFSKY, MD,
CLEVELAND W. LEWIS, JR. MD, and
ORANGE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION
NO.: 2008-4029

ANSWER TO COMPLAINT

DEFENDANT DEMANDS
TRIAL BY JURY

Designation of Trial Counsel:
Sarah E. Sholes

The defendant, Michael D. Lanigan, M.D., by his attorneys, Sholes & Miller, LLP, answering the Complaint of the plaintiff, states as follows, upon information and belief:

JURISDICTION

1. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in paragraphs "1," "3," "4," "5," "6" and "7" of the complaint.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

2. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in paragraphs "9," "10," "11," "12," "13," "14," "15," "18," "19," "20," "21," "22," "23," "24," "25," "26," "27," "29," "30," "31," "32," "33," "34," "35," "36," "37," "38," "39," "40," "41," "45," "46," "47," "48," "49," "50," "51," "52," "53," "54" and "55" of the complaint.

3. Denies the allegations contained in paragraphs "16" and "17" of the complaint, except admits that at some point in time Michael D. Lanigan, M.D. examined Michael Katz at Orange Regional Medical Center and transferred his care to Mitchell Strand, M.D..
4. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in paragraphs "28," "42" and "56" of the complaint, except denies those allegations as they pertain to defendant Michael D. Lanigan, M.D.
5. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "43" and "44" of the complaint.

COUNT I

6. With respect to the allegations contained in paragraph "57" of the verified complaint, the defendant repeats and realleges the responses hereinabove set forth in paragraphs "1" through "5" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein at length.
7. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in paragraph "59" of the complaint.
8. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "58," "61" and "62" of the complaint.
9. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "60" of the complaint and respectfully refers all questions of law to the Court.

COUNT II

10. With respect to the allegations contained in paragraph "63" of the verified complaint, the defendant repeats and realleges the responses hereinabove set forth in paragraphs "1" through "9" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein at length.
11. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "64" of the complaint and respectfully refers all questions of law to the Court.
12. Denies the allegations contained in paragraphs "65" and "66" of the complaint.

COUNT III

13. With respect to the allegations contained in paragraph "67" of the verified complaint, the defendant repeats and realleges the responses hereinabove set forth in paragraphs "1" through "12" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein at length.
14. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in paragraph "68" of the complaint.

AS AND FOR A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

15. That the plaintiff's complaint fails to state facts sufficient to state a cause of action against this answering defendant, Michael D. Lanigan, M.D. and should therefore be dismissed pursuant to CPLR 3211(a)(7).

AS AND FOR A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

16. Upon information and belief, the plaintiff's economic loss, if any, as specified in CPLR 4545, was replaced or indemnified in whole or part from collateral sources and the answering defendant is entitled to have the Court consider the same as reducing or offsetting damages under any verdict in this action, in determining such damages as provided by CPLR 4545.

AS AND FOR A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

17. The answering defendant denies liability but pleads that if found liable at all in this matter, said defendant's liability is fifty percent (50%) or less of the total liability of all persons and/or entities liable; and by reason of CPLR Article 16, the answering defendant's liability to the plaintiff for non-economic loss shall not exceed the answering defendant's equitable share, determined in accordance with the relative culpability of each person or entity causing or contributing to the total liability for non-economic loss.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

18. The answering defendant hereby asserts a setoff pursuant to GOL Section 15-108 against any and all settlements entered into by or judgments recovered by the plaintiff with reference to the injuries at issue.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

19. That if plaintiff's decedent sustained any injury or incurred any loss or damages as alleged in the Complaint, the same were caused in whole or in part by actions or omissions of another or others over whom the answering defendant is not responsible, and whose conduct the defendant had no duty or reason to anticipate or control.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

20. At the time of trial, this answering defendant will ask the Court to charge the jury on the issues of indemnification and/or apportionment or contribution among all responsible tortfeasors.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

21. The relative culpability of each party who is or may be liable for the damages alleged by the plaintiff in this action should be determined in accordance with the decisional and statutory law of the State of New York, and the equitable share of each party's liability for contribution should be determined and apportioned in accordance with the relative culpability, if any, of each such party pursuant to Article 14 of the CPLR.

AS AND FOR A EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

22. New York State is the forum state in this matter, thus the claims and damages alleged by the plaintiff in this action should be determined in accordance with the decisional and statutory laws of the State of New York.

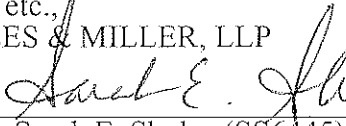
WHEREFORE, the defendant, Michael D. Lanigan, M.D., demands judgment dismissing the plaintiff's complaint as to said defendant, together with costs and disbursements, and further

demands that the ultimate rights of said defendant and all other defendants, as amongst themselves, be determined herein, and that said defendant have judgment over against all other defendants for all of any judgment which may be obtained herein by the plaintiff against said defendant.

DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL

This Court is hereby advised that Sarah E. Sholes is designated as Trial Counsel.

Dated: June 3, 2008
Poughkeepsie, New York

Yours etc.,
SHOLES & MILLER, LLP
By: 
Sarah E. Sholes (SS6445)

Attorneys for Defendant,
Michael D. Lanigan, M.D.
327 Mill Street
P.O. Box 4609
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602
Telephone: 845-454-5909
Facsimile: 845-454-5971
SES@sholesmiller.com

TO: COZEN O'CONNOR
Attn: Christopher C. Fallon, Jr.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
45 Broadway, 16th Floor
New York, New York 10006
(800) 523-2900

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CELIA KATZ, Individually, and as Administratrix
of the Estate of MICHAEL KATZ

CIVIL ACTION
NO.: 2008-4029

Plaintiff,

v.

MICHAEL D. LANIGAN, MD,
MITCHELL S. STRAND, MD,
ELLIOTT MAYEFSKY, MD,
CLEVELAND W. LEWIS, JR. MD, and
ORANGE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER,

Defendants.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I am over eighteen years of age and am not a party to this action. On June 3, 2008, I served a copy of DEFENDANT MICHAEL D. LANIGAN, M.D.'S ANSWER, by using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to registered counsel electronically. Pursuant to that notification, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was sent via email to any party or counsel not receiving electronic service from the CM/ECF pursuant to the consent of all parties to this form of service.

Dated: June 3, 2008
Poughkeepsie, NY



Sarah E. Sholes (SS6445)